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ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

Lectures.

A LECTURE ON STRYCHNIA.

Its Nature, Chemical Tests, Physiological Test. Action, Quantities taken, Post-Mortem Appearances, Medical Use, Diagnosis, and Treatment.

By A. P. DUTCHER, M.D.,

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III. THE PHYSIOLOGICAL TEST.

This test was first proposed by the late MARSHALL HALL. It is commonly called the *frog test*. Dr. HALL, in a brief note on this subject, says that when these animals are placed in water containing very minute portions of strychnia, they will suffer violent tetanic spasms. The following is a description of two of his experiments:

"I requested Mr. L. BULLOCK, of Hanover street, to dissolve one part of the acetate of strychnia in one thousand parts of distilled water, adding a drop or two of acetic acid.

"I then took a frog, and having added to one ounce of water 1-100th part of a grain of the acetate of strychnia, placed the frog in this diluted solution. No effect having been produced, 1-100th of a grain was carefully added. This having produced no effect, in another hour 1-100th of a grain of the acetate was again added, making in all, 3-100ths, or about the thirty-third part of a grain. In a few minutes, the frog became violently tetanic; and, though taken out and washed, died in the course of the night.

"I thus detected, in the most indubitable manner, one thirty-third part of a grain of the acetate of strychnia.

"I placed a second frog in one ounce of distilled water, to which I added the 1-200th part of a grain of the acetate of strychnia. At the end of the first, the second, and the third hours, other similar additions were made, no symptoms of strychnism having appeared. At the end of the fifth hour, the frog having been exposed to the action of 1-50th part of a grain of the acetate

of strychnia, tetanus came on, and under the same circumstances of removal and washing, as in the former experiment, proved fatal in its turn.

"I thus detected 1-50th part of a grain of the poisonous salt by phenomena too vivid to admit of a moment's doubt; the animal, on the slightest touch became seized with the most rigid general spasmodic, or rather tetanoid rigidity. And this phenomenon, alternative with perfect relaxation, was repeated again and again.

"As the nerves and muscles of a frog's leg, properly prepared, have been aptly designated as galvanoscopic, so the whole frog, when properly employed, becomes strychnoscopic.

"In cases of suspected poison from strychnia, the contents of the stomach and intestines, and the contents of the heart and blood vessels, etc., must be severally and carefully evaporated and made to act upon living frogs just taken from the ponds of mud. I need scarcely say that, taken in winter, the frogs will prove more strychnoscopic than in the summer—in the early morning than the evening."

Dr. HALL, on another occasion, repeated these experiments, and found that 1-300th part of a grain of acetate of strychnia, dissolved in six drachms of water, would produce tetanic spasms in a male frog, when placed in it for three hours. He also says that, in two other experiments, the 1-500th and the 1-1000th part of a grain of the acetate of strychnia were detected.

Dr. B. F. BARKER, in his report of the trial of DAVID E. SALISBURY, for poisoning his wife with strychnia, published in the October number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, for 1864, page 412, gives the following description of some experiments that were made upon three frogs, to confirm the chemical tests that had been employed in ascertaining the presence of the alkaloid, in a fluid obtained from the stomach of Mrs. SALISBURY.

"Three active frogs, of equal size, were procured. To the first was given a solution of nuxvomica, computed to contain a twentieth of a grain of strychnia. This was injected into the cavity of the abdomen, the frog placed in a dish of water and watched. The main purpose

of this experiment was to ascertain exactly the action of the alkaloid, and thus to get control of the phenomena. In twenty-five minutes, the frog became convulsed, the spasm being quite energetic. In a few moments more, he lost all power over the lower limbs, and they remained extended.

"To a second frog, a third of the solution obtained by dissolving the residue from the contents of the stomach in water containing a little acetic acid, was given by injection, and the time noted. In eight minutes the spasms came on, the convulsions being much more severe than in the case of the first frog. In twenty minutes he turned over on his back, and was dead in three quarters of an hour.

"An acetic solution of one-twentieth of a grain of the white powder found, in the vial on the prisoner, was prepared, and injected as in the other cases, into the third frog. He became tetanized in nearly the same time as the last, and expired in about forty-five minutes. The first frog did not die, but recovered."

These experiments show very clearly the excellency of the frog test, and it should always be resorted to as furnishing additional testimony of the existence of strychnia in any suspected case of poisoning.

IV. THE PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION OF STRYCHNIA.

The action of strychnia upon the human system is generally regarded by writers on therapeutics as a *special stimulant*. It acts almost entirely upon the spinal cord and medulla-oblongata. Of the nerves of the part just named, it affects the motor much more than the sensory branches. It also acts upon that part of the brain which is most immediately associated with the spinal system of nerves. It is said also to have some action on parts of the ganglionic system of nerves, by which it is enabled to promote the functions of the stomach, and give temporary relief when administered in relaxed conditions of that organ.

It is almost purely an exciter of muscular contraction and of motion, exalting sensation in a very slight degree. It does not excite the action of the heart, and appears to have no direct influence upon the cerebrum. When given in small doses, so as to produce any visible effect, it causes twitching of the muscles of the arms and legs, restlessness, anxiety, slight perspiration, augmented secretion of the urine, and an increase of the venereal appetite. When larger doses are given, it produces more rigidity of the muscles, and a tendency to tetanus, which is followed by stiffness, weariness, pain or rending of the limbs.

When in their highest degree, these effects become violent tetanic spasms, occurring in frequent fits, with brief intervals of preose, acute sensibility and wild alarm. In fatal doses, it produces death by permanent contraction of the muscles of respiration.

Strychnia is absorbed with great rapidity, either from recent wounds, or the stomach. **FOUR GRAINS** have been known to kill a man in fifteen minutes. The smallest quantity which has been known to cause death, is **ONE GRAIN**. Cases are reported in the journals, where recovery has occurred after taking **THREE OR FOUR GRAINS**. A case is reported in the *Western Lancet*, 1850, page 87, by Dr. DRESBACH, where a man took by mistake, three ounces of strychnia solution, containing one grain to the ounce. When seen about twenty minutes afterward, he was in the following condition: The whole muscular system rigid, the muscles of the back and legs so rigidly contracted, that it was with extreme difficulty the man was able to walk; face drawn awry, and articulation impeded; a sense of burning about the stomach; tightness about the chest; vertigo and dimness of vision; lower extremities cold, and perspiration abundant. Two drachms of chloroform were inhaled, and in fifteen minutes he was relieved.

A case is reported in the *London Medical Times and Gazette*, April, 1855, where four grains were taken by mistake. Copious vomiting was produced by emetics in about a quarter of an hour, but the system was violently affected, there being not only excessive tetanic rigidity of the muscles, but frequent recurring convulsions. In another case, reported in the same number of that Journal, a man who had been in the habit of using small doses for an imaginary spermatorrhea, took **FOUR GRAINS** of strychnia and four of morphia, in an ounce of spirits, with the intention of destroying himself. The tetanic spasms ensued in about half an hour. The stomach-pump was not used until the poison had been taken one hour. The man recovered perfectly.

Professor ROCHESTER, in the *Buffalo Medical Journal*, March, 1856, reported the case of a man, who, with a view to self-destruction, took **FOUR GRAINS** of strychnia. The Professor did not see him until three hours after it had been taken. He then found him very much excited, his eye was bright and wild, his countenance flushed, and his respiration hurried; he complained of great thirst, and a burning sensation at the epigastrium. The pulse was slightly accelerated, but not increased in force. He had been vomited freely. The Professor was informed that he had had several tetanic convulsions. He ordered a sinapism to

the epigastrium, and two grains of camphor in powder with half a teaspoonful of tinct. camp., suspended in water.

This had hardly been accomplished, when a spasm commenced, first manifesting itself in the cervical muscles, then in those of the arms and chest, and lastly, in those of the face, turning the eyes in their orbits, and setting the lower jaw firmly. The countenance became turgid, and the jugulars were enormously distended. The pulse numbered 88 per minute. Perspiration was suspended. The nares were distended, and remained so. The paroxysm lasted about three minutes, and when over, the patient complained of slight headache, and intense thirst; his respiration was again hurried, and his wild manner returned. He had several spasms after this, returning at intervals of twenty minutes, when at a few minutes after 10 o'clock, they ceased entirely. The camphor was continued in two-grain doses, every fifteen minutes, until about one drachm was taken. In two days the patient had entirely recovered.

One of the most extraordinary cases on record, of strychnia poisoning, that I have ever read, is published in the *Canada Lancet*, May 15, 1863. NINETY GRAINS of strychnia was swallowed by a man, in half a pint of strong gin, without his knowledge that the poison was present. As soon as the discovery was made, an emetic was resorted to, and recovery ensued. I am generally very credulous, I do not want much evidence to convince me of the truth of a statement of facts, made by any member of the profession in good standing. But here is a case which I strongly suspect to be greatly exaggerated. The man may have taken strychnia, but to say that he took *ninety grains*, and did not succumb, is, to say the least of it, very MYSTERIOUS. It may be, however, that the gin may have had some virtue in counteracting the effect of the poison, but the dose is too large, and it has not yet been established that there is any antagonism between these two poisons, although this case was quoted to prove it.

V. POST MORTEM APPEARANCES.

In poisoning by strychnia, the post-mortem appearances are by no means characteristic. In some cases there have been found signs of inflammation in the intestinal canal, and general congestion of the brain, and sometimes softening of its substance, and of the spinal marrow. No doubt some of these changes are due to the effect of causes which sometimes operate after death, and are not the result of any peculiar influence of the poison. By some recent chemical experi-

ments, in cases of poisoning by this alkaloid, the most unequivocal evidence has been furnished of its presence in all the organs of the body. It has been found in the blood, and also in the excretions, particularly in the bile and in the urine. It is undoubtedly through the last named excretion, that this poison is eliminated from the system. This has been fully demonstrated, by Drs. LAWRIE and CROWN, in the experiments which they have made, with a view of determining the symptoms and post-mortem appearances produced by this poison. In nearly every case where strychnia had been given, it was readily detected in the urine.

[To be continued.]

Communications.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

Distinguished Living New York Surgeons.

By SAM'L W. FRANCIS, M. D.,

Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

No. 10.

John P. Batchelder.

JOHN P. BATCHELDER was born in the town of Wilton, New Hampshire, on the sixth day of August, 1784; and, though eighty-one years of age, continues to practice with ability, and pursues the same course of life followed out by him half a century since, saying that a wider experience has convinced him of certain fallacies, and much observation enlarged his insight into many mysterious disorders. Both of his parents were born in this country, and being blessed with the subject of the present biography as their only offspring, they did all in their power to further his ambition and bring out his latent powers. Having neither brothers nor sisters, young JOHN was permitted to pursue the bent of his own inclination, and even before he regularly entered any one's office, or officially notified the community of his determination to study medicine, we find him prescribing for the various ailments of the family servants, and giving vegetable powders to his father's domestics. Finding that even when a boy, he did not kill anybody, he soon moved one grade higher, and sought to cure the afflicted, and accordingly entered the office of Drs. SAMUEL FITCH and MATTHIAS SPAULDING, of Greenfield, New Hampshire, where he conscientiously investigated disease, digested the medico-surgical axioms of his preceptors, and sought to gain experience at the bedside of the poor and needy. A short time after, from certain frugal reasons, young BATCHELDER took out a license to practice

on June 1st, 1807, and continued in this capacity until he was enabled to attend a full and practical course of lectures at Harvard University, Massachusetts, whence he was graduated in 1815. Armed with his diploma, Dr. BATCHELDER practised alternately in Charlestown, New Hampshire, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Utica, New York, and for the last twenty years in New York city. Although Dr. BATCHELDER did not enter a classical college, or place himself under the guidance of any university, his general education was liberal, and so creditably did he avail himself of surrounding advantages, that a college, of good standing and ethical principles, in Middlebury, Vermont, conferred upon him the degree of A. M. This contributed, in no slight degree, to rouse the Doctor's latent love for books in general, and medical surgery in particular, and has resulted in producing several essays and comprehensive works on various affections, peculiar operations, and different treatment.

Dr. BATCHELDER wrote an excellent "Thesis on the Disease of the Heart styled Aneurism," which he presented to the faculty of Harvard University, Massachusetts, as his inaugural dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. When we reflect that this was fifty years ago, when auscultation was in its infancy, and that Dr. BATCHELDER suggested certain principles of great interest to the practitioner of the present day, we feel that his mind was not confined to the narrow limits of a present course, neither was he forced into a set view; but judging by an inductive reasoning, and acting upon well-founded theories, he made excellent observation, and proposed useful improvements.

As early as 1818, Dr. BATCHELDER performed his first operation for lithotomy, and with a pleasing and satisfactory result. This was at the time when Dr. KISSAM* the successful lithotomist, was performing continually his great operations in that locality. As a surgeon, Dr. BATCHELDER has performed most of the important operations that fall to the practitioner's lot. Especially, however, has he turned his attention to tumors in various parts of the body. In the year 1841, on the 16th of September, he removed an enlarged gland, the size of a pint bowl, or perhaps a little larger, from the neck of a child seven years old. It extended from under the clavicle on the right side, to the occiput and mastoid process of the temporal bone, continuing till it passed beneath the muscle behind the trachea, and between it and the œsophagus. Posteriorly, it went between the trape-

zius, the levator scapulae and scaleni muscles, to the spinous processes of the third, fourth, and fifth cervical vertebrae. Dr. BATCHELDER performed the operation successfully. He was assisted by Drs. LORD, McVICKER, POTTER, and GEORGE H. BATCHELDER, and though the little heroine recovered from the exhausting effects of the heroic treatment, the disease returned, and she ultimately died. In 1828, Dr. BATCHELDER removed a tumor, from the angle of the jaw. It was associated with some danger, much suffering, and not a little difficulty. In speaking of this operation, Dr. BATCHELDER remarks, that though an artery may be controlled as to its pulsations, by the tourniquet, sufficient hemorrhage may ensue to cause the loss of the patient's life. This had been before expounded by JOHN BELL, though Professor VALENTINE MOTT seems to entertain an opposite opinion.

Dr. BATCHELDER has made some excellent improvements in surgical instruments. He has sought to simplify those already in use; and where finding a deficiency in the utility of a present method of cutting, has endeavored by an originality of conception and a nicety of adaptation, to combine economy of time with comprehensiveness of motion. Forty years ago, he invented the first craniotome that could be worked with one hand; those formerly used were forceps that required both hands to hold them, and even then were very dangerous, for they were confined by no guide, and might, by any sudden slip or awkward movement, or even the employment of undue force, lacerate the maternal parts, and bring about serious difficulties.

In 1817, he was appointed Professor of Anatomy in Castleton College, Vermont, and subsequently elected Professor of Surgical Anatomy in the Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Early in life he appreciated the value of phonography and perfected himself so far in this useful branch of mental education, that he preferred not only to take down what he heard, stenographically, but from choice, wrote out his own lectures, which were to be delivered before his class. It is much more difficult to read than to write short-hand. This proved a great saving of time. Lately, however, Dr. BATCHELDER informed me that he had taken down his lectures with a view to condensing what he had formerly written into a comprehensive work on surgery, which he had serious thoughts of publishing, as it embraced some original views that might prove interesting to the profession. But this was not to be. In vain did he endeavor to recall the past, and, by memory's aid, make out what once had

* Father of R. S. KISSAM, M.D., who died Nov. 1890.

been so clear. Not only were the volumes written in stenography, but Dr. BATCHELDER had done what is very common with persons accustomed to employ this excellent method of chaining thought, he had abbreviated, after his own way, the popular system—so that a double short-hand stared him in the face. Nothing, now, could be done. The aid of no one could be called in to assist in recovering the intellectual foot-marks of his past career. In despair, he consigned this literary focus to the flames; and, as they shrivelled and burnt up what had often roused the imagination of the young, and instilled useful principles into the ambitious minds of his students, ended in smoke, and left on memory's page a misty haze of cloudlike meaning. But, happily for posterity, with these manuscripts all of Dr. BATCHELDER's emanations did not perish. A choice selection of essay articles on disease, operations, and treatment, are still extant, and will afford many an improving hour to the student of the principles of surgery, or the practitioner of enlarged attainments. Besides many articles appearing in the medical periodicals of the day, Dr. BATCHELDER wrote and published a pamphlet on Cholera, which not only covers the ground, but by an analytical reasoning, carries on the mind from one wise suggestion to another, and succeeds in unfolding much that is singular, as connected with this affection. His work, on Compressed Sponge is replete with learned statements and abounding in excellent hints. As an additional endorsement of the merit contained in Professor BATCHELDER's writings, it is remarkably pleasing to an individual, and peculiarly gratifying to his countrymen, to know that almost without an exception, everything the Doctor has written, has been reprinted abroad. This is exceedingly rare in the life of even a public character.

On asking Dr. BATCHELDER if he had to live over his eventful experience, with all its pros and cons, would he be a doctor again, he replied: "Yes, Sir; I never was made for anything else." This shows an instinctive fitness for the ennobling and responsible profession, which, when conscientiously entered into, elevates humanity and exalts existence. The doctor does not smoke, and never did. For many years, he made diseases of the eye and their treatment, his specialty. This indicates a clear mind centred on the minutiae of details, and the command of nerves attuned to practical certainties. In 1825, he tied the carotid artery as a means of cutting off the supply of blood to a large sarcomatous tumor of the lower jaw which he subsequently

removed with success;* but being of a malignant character, it returned in the course of time, and he operated a second time, in the following November. This time one-half of the superior maxillary bone, together with all the diseased parts, were removed by sawing through the vomer, near the symphysis. The condyloid process was also disarticulated from the glenoid cavity of the temporal bone. This operation was performed for the first time, it will be remembered, by Dr. VALENTINE MOTT, and the second time by Dr. BATCHELDER.

Dr. BATCHELDER performed the rhinoplastic operation in 1828, for the first time in this country, and a plastic operation for a new under-lip, for the first time on this side of the Atlantic. Both of these operations proved successful. This shows a mechanical and mathematical mind, and a peculiar sense of surgical adaptability which cannot be entirely acquired. It must be born in a surgeon. There are some "cutters" now living, who seem to have no index finger, but are apparently blessed with many thumbs. In the spring of 1832, Dr. BATCHELDER removed an osteo-sarcomatous tumor, which involved a large portion of the upper jaw. Though there was great hope that the disease would not return, the fears of the surgeon were realized, and it came back. On performing the second operation, he was obliged to remove the whole bone on the affected side, excepting a small portion of the palate, nasal, and alveolar processes. This was so effectually done, that when the diseased mass had been taken away by saw, knife, etc., the immense cavity, to use the words of the operator himself, "formed by the removal of the tumor from the place near the symphysis, where the alveolar process was sawn through to the external pterygoid process of the sphenoid, and orbital process of the malar, seemed to be entirely free of osseous matter." The patient, Mr. SPAULDING, of New Hartford, recovered, and experienced much relief for some time, but ultimately, the disease returned, for the third time, and he gradually sank under its insidious advances and prostrating effects. In this case, as in the former one, Professor BATCHELDER was enabled to study out the physiological movements of parts that are usually concealed from view; but, owing to the immense cavity that was left in the side of the head, he saw, with ease, the fauces, glottis, epiglottis, and larynx, and what occurred when swallowing or speaking. In

* This is said to be the first "reported case," where the common carotid had been tied in New England, most likely it was the first time it had ever been ligated as a distinct operation.

speaking to me of this operation, Dr. BATCHELDER remarked:

"It was exceedingly interesting to me, although only for a few moments, to witness the movements of the epiglottis, the laryngeal cartilages, and the larynx as a whole. In the act of speaking, the movements of the glottidean cartilages, the rima glottidis and epiglottis were astonishingly rapid. The epiglottis seemed to be but little concerned in protecting the rima in the act of swallowing. It is true that the substances swallowed, passed down each side of the epiglottis, when at the same time the glottis was drawn up closely under and behind the tongue, as suggested by Professor DALTON. The epiglottis, from the rapidity and flapping kind of its motions, appeared to have considerable influence in modifying the voice. Indeed there seemed to be a sort of coincidence between the movements of these parts and those about the mouth in speaking, or the utterance of words, or syllables. The rima glottidis, and the parts about it, seemed to act synchronously with the lips and parts about the mouth."

Dr. BATCHELDER was the first in this country to remove the head of the femur.

Dr. BATCHELDER's works are as follows:

1. A case of disease of the Heart—being a Letter addressed to Prof. J. C. WARREN, dated Charleston, N. H., September 1, 1813, and printed in the *N. E. Journal of Medicine and Surgery*.
2. Paper on Fracture of the inferior extremity of the Radius, published in the same journal, May 4, 1818.
3. Treatise on Removal of fragments of needles, from Hands and Feet. Extract from Surgical Lectures.
4. Treatise on the Reduction of the dislocation of the upper end of the Radius.
5. Memoir on the Fracture of the lower extremity of the Radius, when Dr. BATCHELDER was Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery in the Berkshire Medical Institution, Pittsfield, Mass., 1827.
6. Treatment of Seminal Discharges.
7. Case of a Tumor in the Neck, in which the Innominata had been laid bare nearly its whole length; the pulsations of which, with those of the primitive carotid, were felt by several gentlemen who assisted in the operation. 1846.
8. Fracture of Patella, clavical and olecranon process of the Ulna. *New York Medical and Surgical Reporter*: Edited by Dr. C. T. COLLINS, now of Great Barrington, Mass.

9. Paper on Removal of the Head of the Femur. *New York Medical Journal*.

10. Pathology and Treatment of Dysentery, do. 1851.

11. Treatment of Cholera, do. 1854.

12. Practical Observations on Tracheotomy, as a remedy in Croup, do. 1854.

13. History of a case in which a foreign body was supposed to be lodged in the Air Passages—tracheotomy—death—autopsy, do. 1855.

14. On Inverted Toe-Nail. 1856.

15. Dislocation of the upper end of the Radius; printed in the *New York Journal of Medicine*, 1856.

16. Pathology and Treatment of the Paralysis of Motion. *Virginia Medical Journal*, Vol. x., No. 1.

17. Pathology of Motion, do. No. 5.

18. Work on Compressed Sponge.

19. Thoughts on the connection of Life, Mind, and Matter, in respect to Education; published in Utica, in the year 1845, one volume.

This work is a treat to the philosopher, and a boon to the student. It not only brings before one's eyes the peculiar phenomena of mind over matter, as generally comprehended by the popular intellect; but facts and statements, theories and principles, axioms and metaphysics are, one and all, so ingeniously worked into the book, as it glides on through interesting page after page, that fatigue is absent from the brain, and a pleasing imagery captivates, while original ideas keep freshened the fascinated sensorium. The anecdotes, moreover, are replete with interest, and instructively to the point at issue. A contemporaneous journal gave utterance to the following sentence, in treating of the merits of this work: "There is a stamp of originality upon the whole work, which is sufficient to substantiate its claim for perusal by every scientific reader." As the mental result of one who had devoted thirty years, to the time of his writing, to lecturing and giving instruction, it embodies wisdom, combined with general fancy.

Among the subjects treated are the following, physiologically treated with excellent reasoning: The Passions—Fear, Joy, Anger, Hope, and Love. Activity and Size of Organs, and how to Increase them. Education of the Senses. Sight, Hearing, and Touch. Pleasure and Pain. A reprint of this volume would be acceptable.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 24, 1865.

CLOSE OF THE TWELFTH VOLUME.

This number closes the twelfth volume of the *MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER*. The volume comprises the issues of a whole year, and the number of copies falls fifteen short of the regular number for a year, for reasons that are explained on pages 76, 207, and 516. An examination of the Index of the volume, published herewith, will show that it contains a very large amount and variety of valuable material, most of it original, and from the pens of

NEARLY ONE HUNDRED CONTRIBUTORS,

residing in all parts of the country, and from surgeons in the United States service, in both Army and Navy.

In the conduct of the work, it has been our earnest desire to serve the profession faithfully, entirely uninfluenced by selfish interests of any kind. The elevation of the profession, by the diffusion of knowledge, in an attractive, readable form, has been our aim. To what extent this has been accomplished, our readers must judge. We accept the testimony, however, of a steadily increasing circulation, as evidence that our arduous labors are in some degree at least, meeting the requirements of the profession. A journal that circulates considerably more than a hundred and fifty thousand copies a year must, of necessity, exert some influence. We feel the responsibility that rests upon us, and are anxious that the influence we exert shall be for good. To this end we solicit the aid and co-operation of our friends in giving the *REPORTER* a practical, useful character, and in diffusing medical knowledge by its means far and wide.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Medical Society of Pennsylvania met at Altoona last week, on Wednesday, June 14th. The following were the officers of the Society:

President, J. D. Ross, of Blair county; Vice Presidents, Drs. Galbraith, Stephenson, Anderson, Rich; Corresponding Secretary, A. Nobinger; Permanent Secretary, W. H. Atkinson, of Philadelphia; Recording Secretaries, Dr. W. Sargent, of Philadelphia; Dr. I. N. Evans, of Hatboro, Montgomery county; Treasurer, W. Mayburry, of Philadelphia.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. WALLACE. Dr. Findlay, of Altoona, on behalf of the committee of arrangements, wel-

comed the delegates to the place, in a neat and appropriate address.

The attendance of members was not large, though it compared quite favorably with that of former years. It is matter for regret that there are so few of the counties of this great State, in which the profession is organized, and that the meetings of the State Society, are in consequence so small. What a noble record the profession of Pennsylvania would make, if only half its counties possessed medical organizations, may be judged of, by what is accomplished by the few that have Societies and send representatives to the State Society.

The annual volume of transactions of the State Society, contains a great deal that is of interest and use to the profession, but the variety and usefulness of its contents are capable of being greatly increased by a more thorough organization of the profession.

After the meeting was organized, the President, Dr. Ross, delivered the annual address. The subject was an excellent one, viz: "The primary education of young men entering the medical profession." He spoke of the great importance of thorough education in the different departments of science, such as geology, mineralogy, chemistry, and botany, before entering upon the study of medicine; but a thorough knowledge of all these were not alone sufficient to make a good physician. Men are different by nature. No matter how well educated some men may be, they never will be skilful physicians. Education is not qualification; much more is requisite. They should be mentally, physically, and morally qualified. How many do we see throughout the world who have mistaken their calling! The minister, the lawyer, the doctor, the farmer, and the mechanic, all make great mistakes, by either their parents or themselves not selecting the profession or the business for which they are adapted, and were by nature intended.

The address, which was able and instructive, was listened to with great interest.

Delegates were present from the State Medical Societies of New York and New Jersey, who were cordially received by the members. Dr. ARNOLD, delegate from the New York Society, presented a paper on opium. Dr. TONER, of Washington city was also present, and presented a paper giving the history of inoculation in Pennsylvania. Other special papers, and reports from the County Societies represented, were presented and referred to the Committee of Publication.

On Wednesday, the delegates made an excursion over the mountain to Cresson, which was

the means of much social enjoyment. The profession of Altoona exerted themselves to make the meeting an agreeable and pleasant one.

The Society adjourned on Thursday evening, to meet at Kingston, opposite Wilkesbarre, on the second Wednesday of June, 1866.

Correspondence.

DOMESTIC.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

Ovariectomy and Binghampton Inebriate Asylum.

GEORGE T. ELLIOT, M. D., of this city, recently performed successfully the operation for ovariectomy at Bellevue Hospital, removing a tumor of a multilocular character; which, when the water was drawn off, weighed some seven pounds. The patient was doing well at last accounts; and, from the absence of any of those grave symptoms that generally follow so serious a disturbance of the peritoneum, and the removal of so large a mass of abnormal matter, gives every promise of a speedy recovery.

Owing to the death of Dr. VALENTINE MOTT, the Binghampton Inebriate Asylum lost a valuable President; and, at their meeting, a few days since, passed a series of most appropriate and feeling resolutions, as bearing on the loss sustained by his immediate family, the country at large, and the Institution itself. At the same meeting the Trustees unanimously elected Dr. WILLIAM PARKE, of New York, President for the ensuing term. I have been informed that he has accepted.

SAMUEL W. FRANCIS.

June 15, 1865.

News and Miscellany.

Small-pox in the West Indies.

The Kingston Jamaica Journal says: "A frightful account has been given us by a gentleman from St. Thomas of the ravages of small-pox in that parish, and the mortality among the laboring classes. In the interior districts the people have been dying like rotten sheep. Even about Morant Bay, those afflicted with small-pox have been seen exposed on the highway, there being no place provided for their reception by the authorities.

A Light Supper!

At a supper given to the Emperor Napoleon, after a ball at the Mustapha Palace, in Algiers, the provisions were of a decidedly African character, as may be seen from the following bill of fare: Soup of the tortoise of the Bondouaou, re-

lieved by a porcupine garnished with antelope kidneys, quarters of the Ouargian gazelle, and loins of young wild boars from the Oued-Hullouf. Entrees—Salmis of Carthaginian hens, antelope outlets, and bustards from the Chotts. Roasts—An ostrich from the Oglat-Nadja, and hams of the wild boar. Side Dishes—sciquiams of the Hammah, ostrich eggs in the shell, jelly of pomegranates from Staouell, Arabian pastry, ouldax, macroudes, acerakboracs, and oribias. The supper table was laid for 60 guests.

MARRIED.

BOLLES—JANNEY.—On the 15th instant, by the Rev. J. Rudderow, Lucius S. Bolles, M. D., and Gertrude, youngest daughter of the late Dr. B. S. Janney, both of Philadelphia.

BURDICK—BLOODGOOD.—In New York, on Thursday, June 15, by Rev. Peter Stryker, Stephen P. Burdick, M. D., and Miss Kate E. Bloodgood, all of New York city.

OTTENSON—CURTIS.—On Wednesday, June 14, in Brooklyn, by Rev. James Ottenson, of Philadelphia, Dr. William C. Ottenson, and Miss Josephine E., youngest daughter of Jeremiah Curtis, Esq., all of Brooklyn.

DIED.

BROWN.—In this city, on the 14th inst., Dr. David S. Brown, in the 45th year of his age.

CLIFF.—In Templeville, Md., May 10th, Mrs. Mary E., wife of Dr. F. A. Cliff, aged 39 years.

DOUGLAS.—In New York, on Saturday, June 10, Eliza E., widow of Robert Douglas, M. D., daughter of John Macpherson.

LOVEJOY.—At Brooklyn, L. I., June 18, Gertrude, infant daughter of Dr. J. W. H., and Maria L. Lovejoy, of Washington; D. C.

WICKES.—At Orange, N. J., on Tuesday, June 13, Van Wyck Wickes, aged 85 years.

Mr. Wickes was father of Dr. Stephen Wickes, of Orange.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. J. D., Hellam, Pa.—Da Costa's Medical Diagnosis, sent by mail, June 18.

Dr. W. E., Nobletown, Pa.—Hartshorne on Glycerine, sent by mail, June 13.

Dr. L. D. R., East Poultney, Vt.—Flint on the Heart, sent by mail, June 15.

Dr. M. M., Howard, Pa.—Wood and Bach's Dispensatory, sent by mail, June 15.

Dr. G. B. C., Hawley, Pa.—Bedford's Diseases of Women and Children, Bennett's Uterine Pathology, and U. S. Pharmacopoea, were sent by mail, June 13.

Dr. J. M. F., Clintonville, Pa.—Pocket Medical Lexicon, sent by mail, June 15.

Dr. J. F. S., Grovesnor's Corners, N. Y.—Urinal, sent by mail, June 13.

Dr. O. B., Holyoke, Mass.—"Kelliker's Anatomy" and Henderson's Homoeopathy, sent by mail, June 19.

Dr. E. J. L., Verona, N. Y.—Porte Caustique, sent by mail, June 13.

Dr. S. S. V. F., Boalsburg, Pa.—Hare lip pins, sent by mail, June 15.

Dr. P. L. G., Thompsonstown, Pa.—Cataract needle, sent by mail, June 15.

Dr. C. E. W., Freemansburg, N. Y.—Pariera's Prescription Book, sent by mail, June 19.

WANTED.

Subscribers having any of the following numbers to spare, will confer a favor, and likewise be credited on their running subscriptions, with such as they may return us.

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" XI. Nos. 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 21, Jan. 2, 23, 30, Feb. 13, March 12, May 21, '64.

" XII. Nos. 1, 5, 11, 12, 17, July 2, Sept. 10, Oct. 22, 29, '64, Feb. 4, '65.

We are in pressing need just now of a few copies for new subscribers, of No. 414, Feb. 4, 1865.

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